

Minutes of the
Maricopa Association of Governments
Regional Council Executive Committee
April 15, 2024

This meeting was conducted in person and virtually via Zoom
[Video recording of the meeting](#)

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Avondale: Mayor Kenneth Weise, Past Chair	Virtual
Buckeye: Mayor Eric Orsborn	In Person
Chandler: Mayor Kevin Hartke, Vice Chair	In Person
El Mirage: Mayor Alexis Hermosillo, Treasurer	Virtual
Gilbert: Mayor Brigette Peterson	In Person
Mesa: Mayor John Giles	In Person
Phoenix: Mayor Kate Gallego, Chair	Virtual

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Council Executive Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Hartke at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum of members was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Hartke led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that there were no requests to speak received for the Call to the Audience. MAG staff indicated that online written public comments for the Call to the Audience received prior to the deadline were provided to the members for consideration. Please see the attached report.

4. Informational Items

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that there were no informational items for this meeting.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Hartke stated that agenda items 5A through 5D were on the Consent Agenda.

He asked if any members had questions or would like a presentation on any of the Consent Agenda items. None were noted.

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that there were no requests to speak received for the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Hartke requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda for items 5A through 5D, and Mayor Weise seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Mayor Giles, Vice Chair Hartke, Mayor Hermosillo, Mayor Orsborn, Mayor Peterson and Mayor Weise.

No response was received from Mayor Gallego.

5A. Approval of the January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee by consent, approved the January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

5B. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call

The Regional Council Executive Committee by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to transfer \$500,000 from the Comprehensive Regional Bus Service Operational Analysis to the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023, and included \$500,000 for the FY 2024-2025 Comprehensive Regional Bus Service Operational Analysis. This effort was intended to serve as a first step in advancing the fixed route bus funding policy changes under the Regional Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan and funding through an extension of Proposition 400, now known as Proposition 479. Since that time, MAG has been in close coordination with Valley Metro, who has budgeted funding to initiate a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) to evaluate the existing regional transit network to increase mobility value, effectiveness, and resource efficiency.

To ensure that work is not duplicated and that the Proposition 479 transit program is developed in a timely manner, MAG's Comprehensive Regional Bus Service Operational Analysis effort will be refocused into a project to develop the Proposition 479 Transit Life Cycle Program Funding Policy Framework. To expedite this work, MAG will use the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call to select a qualified consultant. As a result, MAG is requesting to transfer \$500,000 budgeted for the Comprehensive Regional Bus Service Operational Analysis to the Regional Transportation Planning On-Call.

5C. Amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget for the FY 2024-2025 Regional ITS Architecture Update

The Regional Council Executive Committee by consent, approved an amendment to the MAG FY 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to add \$50,000 to the FY 2024-2025 Regional ITS Architecture Update.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget was approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 24, 2023, and included \$100,000 for the FY 2024-2025 Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Update. The MAG Regional ITS Architecture (RIA) was developed in compliance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) policy, which requires new federally funded ITS projects to conform to a regional ITS architecture. The RIA is based on the National ITS Architecture (NIA), maintained by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Since the approval of the FY 2024-2025 UPWP, a newer version of the NIA was released in January 2024 with updated features to account for developments in emerging technology. To bring the current 2019 RIA in compliance with these new features, an estimated \$150,000 is required. As such, staff is requesting the FY 2024-2025 Regional ITS Architecture Update budget be amended to include an additional \$50,000. Funding is available from MAG's annual apportionment of FHWA formula funds.

5D. Consultant Selection for the FY 2024 Cave Creek Road Widening Study

The Regional Council Executive Committee by consent, approved the selection of Michael Baker International for the FY 2024 Cave Creek Road Widening Study, and that if negotiations are not successful, that MAG pursue negotiations with its second choice, AECOM.

The MAG Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget includes \$250,000 for the FY 2024 Cave Creek Road Widening Study. The Study will provide information to better understand travel characteristics and potential roadway improvements to improve capacity along Cave Creek Road between Loop 101 (Pima Freeway) and Carefree Highway. Additionally, the study will help local jurisdictions gain a better understanding of transportation needs along the study corridor and provide a vision for Cave Creek Road to support projected growth. A request for proposals was advertised with a total of four proposals received by the March 20, 2024, deadline. On April 2, 2024, an evaluation team met and recommended the selection of Michael Baker International. Additionally, the evaluation team recommended that if negotiations with Michael Baker International are not successful, MAG pursue negotiations with the second highest scoring consultant, AECOM.

6. Resolution for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Vice Chair Hartke invited Nathan Pryor, Special Projects Administrator, to present this item. Mr. Pryor noted that April 14-20, 2024, is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and this agenda item was to recognize the ongoing work of public safety telecommunicators who answer the call to those in distress or need. He indicated that in 2023, in the Maricopa region, there were an estimated 3.5 million calls answered by more than 1,000 public safety telecommunicators at 26 9-1-1 call centers.

Mr. Pryor indicated several chairs and co-chairs of MAG's 9-1-1 committees and Maricopa Region 9-1-1 staff were present at the meeting and he introduced: MAG Public Safety Answering Point Managers Group Chair Stephanie Heinzelman, City of Chandler Police Department; Vice Chair Allie Edwards from the City of Phoenix Police Department; and Scott Walker, Assistant Chief, City of Phoenix Fire Department.

Vice Chair Hartke asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item. None were noted.

Vice Chair Hartke read the resolution recognizing April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

WHEREAS, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) serves the residents of 27 cities and towns, three Native nations, and two counties; and,

WHEREAS, MAG has served as a convenor on regional 9-1-1 issues since the 1980s and has worked with Maricopa Region 9-1-1 and member agencies to provide a high-quality emergency communications system to the residents of the region; and,

WHEREAS, there were an estimated 3.5 million 9-1-1 calls in the Maricopa region in 2023 that were answered by more than 1,000 public safety telecommunicators at 26 public safety answering points responding to calls for help; and,

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are the link between people calling for help in an emergency situation and the emergency response agencies who arrive on the scene; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of our region's police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone our public safety answering points; and,

WHEREAS, MAG recognizes the professional and dedicated service of public safety telecommunicators who answer 9-1-1 calls on a daily basis;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee hereby recognizes the week of April 14 - 20, 2024, as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that there were no requests to speak received for the agenda item. MAG staff indicated that there were no online written public comments received for the agenda item.

Vice Chair Hartke requested a motion for the agenda item. Mayor Peterson moved to approve the Resolution for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and Mayor Orsborn seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following members voting in favor: Mayor Giles, Vice Chair Hartke, Mayor Hermosillo, Mayor Orsborn, Mayor Peterson and Mayor Weise.

No response was received from Mayor Gallego.

After the vote in favor of the resolution, MAG staff took a photograph of Ms. Heinzelman, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Walker with members of the Regional Council Executive Committee.

7. Annual Performance Review of the MAG Executive Director

Vice Chair Hartke asked for motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mayor Peterson moved to adjourn to Executive Session and Mayor Orsborn seconded the motion. Mayor Gallego, Mayor Giles, Mayor Hartke, Mayor Hermosillo, Mayor Peterson, and Mayor Weise voted in favor of the motion. The committee went into executive session at 12:14 p.m.

The regular meeting of the MAG Regional Council Executive Committee reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

Mayor Giles noted he was very pleased with Mr. Ed Zuercher's performance as MAG Executive Director and that he was uniquely qualified for the position given the challenges that MAG was facing. He thanked him on behalf of his and of other communities. He expressed appreciation for the passage of the enabling legislation for placing Proposition 479 onto the ballot in November.

Mayor Peterson noted that Mr. Zuercher's contract duration being two years means a vote will not be necessary at this time and the Regional Council Executive Committee conducted an annual review of his performance. She concurred with Mayor Giles' remarks, thanked Mr. Zuercher for his work, and stated the committee looks forward to his continuing leadership at MAG over the next year.

Vice Chair Hartke indicated the committee is honored to have Mr. Zuercher in this role and looks forward to his leadership. He thanked him and noted the committee is honored to serve with him.

Mr. Zuercher thanked the committee for their confidence in him and he indicated MAG staff is dedicated to serving member agencies and the region every day.

8. Air Quality Update

Vice Chair Hartke invited Environmental Director Matt Poppen to present this item. Mr. Poppen noted that MAG sent a follow-up letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator Joseph Goffman requesting assistance on core issues related to attainment of the ozone standard highlighted by MAG in a meeting with Mr. Goffman on March 7, 2024. He indicated MAG continues to work with EPA Region 9 staff for solutions to those core issues in order to submit an ozone plan that can be approved by the agency. With regard to the EPA's new National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter (PM-2.5), Mr. Poppen indicated the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has started the process of determining the geographic boundaries of areas in the state that are attaining, or not attaining, the new PM-2.5 standard. MAG staff will be providing feedback as the department begins to prepare recommendations to the Governor, who will then submit those recommendations to EPA in February of 2025. Mr. Poppen concluded his update and asked if there were any questions.

Vice Chair Hartke asked whether the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) or MAG would weigh in about the impact of EPA's recent polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) recommendations. Mr. Zuercher indicated that AMWUA works on water availability and MAG works on water quality, and that staff would follow up on the question.

9. Executive Director's Report

This item was not discussed.

10. Legislative Update

Vice Chair Hartke requested Chief of Staff Audra Koester Thomas to report on this item. This was on the agenda for information and discussion.

Ms. Thomas reported the projected state budget deficit has been adjusted down to \$1.8 billion over the next two years. Several policy matters remain unaddressed, such as the continuation for departments, including the Arizona Department of Transportation, and it is anticipated that these conversations will occur as part of budget negotiations. She indicated that Senate Bill 1064, a bill intended to expand the number of fuel blends available to make fuel more affordable during the summer months, is still active. Regarding two other bills, Senate Bill 2545 and Senate Bill 2546, measures which would exempt model year 2018 vehicles or newer from emission inspections, both failed on the senate floor.

Mr. Zuercher added that staff is actively watching transportation appropriations as part of budget discussions. He indicated that if members of the committee and their staff have specific questions about the status of any particular appropriation to reach out to MAG staff.

Vice Chair Hartke asked if any members had questions or comments regarding the agenda item. There were none.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Hartke asked members if there were any requests for future agenda items. He requested an update and general perspective on the EPA's PFAS recommendations. There were no other requests.

12. Comments from the Committee

Vice Chair Hartke asked the members if there were any comments. None were noted.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Hartke indicated that the next meeting of the Regional Council Executive Committee would take place on May 13, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Regional Council Executive Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

Comments Received From: January 22, 2024 **to** April 15, 2024

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:36:35 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: call to the public: Maricopa County Association of Governments is an unelected body that is not a real government entity. Members of MAG are not elected, rather they are appointed. MAG needs to be abolished in its current form and should be a traditional nonprofit. Stop implementing Road Diets, expanding Bus Rapid Transit, and expanding Light Rail. These policies put small businesses out of business, increase crashes and serious injuries, increase traffic and pollution. Valley Metro's revenue from ridership is only 16%. 81% comes from Member Cities and Federal Funding. Public Transit is failing, and MAG needs to stop propping up failing industries. These policies do not generate the results Maricopa County residents want to see. The Mayor of Phoenix, Chair of this Body, also promised to not implement banning meat or dairy products. Do not implement policies that add to reducing meat and dairy consumption. MAG IS UNELECTED BY WE THE PEOPLE! CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:38:10 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: 4B: MAG should not be the middle man for grants. It is likely that MAG will skim some money off the top of this grant due to administration or some other issue or reason. It would be less expensive for these grants to directly fund the entities instead of having to go through MAG. Furthermore, MAG should not be accepting money or doing business with any entity that has been punished for doing business with a known pedophile or Jeffrey Epstein.

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:40:44 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: 4D The agenda item states this study will "evaluate roadway improvements that improve capacity." Please do not implement Road Diets, Expand Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail or any other item that will get cars off the road.
THE 15 MINUTE CITY ITEMS ARE AGAINST WE THE PEOPLE. PLEASE STOP THIS.
MAG IS UNLECTED BY WE THE PEOPLE. CONFLICT OF INTEREST! PLEASE STOP

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:42:48 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: 4E: While this money is being used to study the implementation of a private transit system, please do not implement Road Diets or any other project that will reduce traffic lanes or have the intention of removing cars off the road. THE ROAD DIETS ARE HARMING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC NOT HELPING IT. MAG IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. UNELECTED BY WE THE PEOPLE

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:45:50 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: 4F: The Rio Reimagined project currently has a major road diet planned. This road diet needs to not occur, and the plan needs to not have anything in it that has the objective of reducing or removing vehicles on the roads in Phoenix.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR STATE/COUNTY IS TYRANNY. MAG IS NOT ELECTED BY WE THE PEOPLE. THE MAYOR IS IN A TREASONIST ROLE. SHE IS TO BE UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION BUT INSTEAD SHE IS LOYAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS/ WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM.

Date Received: 1/22/2024 1:47:49 PM

Name: Lezley Shepherd

City/State: Phoenix AZ

Comment: 6. Request for Future Agenda Items
Implement a policy that states MAG will not reduce or have the goal of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled or taking cars off the road.
YOU ARE ALL SWORN TO SUPPORT THE CONSITUTION. WHEN YOU GO AGAINST THE PEOPLE YOU ARE VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION.

Date Received: 2/25/2024 11:02:28 AM

Name: Tamara Larson

City/State:

Comment: This is in response to Agenda Item #58: - OPPOSED - VOTE NO.

It is blatantly obvious that this agenda is not only deceitful, by using framework to fool the people into thinking that it is for "Safety" but it is also an egregious attempt to control. This country is the home of the FREE, because of the BRAVE. The American people will not tolerate being controlled. I strongly suggest you vote NO!

Report Parameters

Date Generated: 4/15/2024 10:05:45 AM
Committee: Regional Council Executive Committee
Meeting Date: 4/15/2024 12:00 PM
Excluded Before: 1/22/2024 10:00 AM